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DEVELOPING BELIZE

PLANBELIZE'S OPEN ACCESS TO EDUCATION, JOBS, LAND, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE

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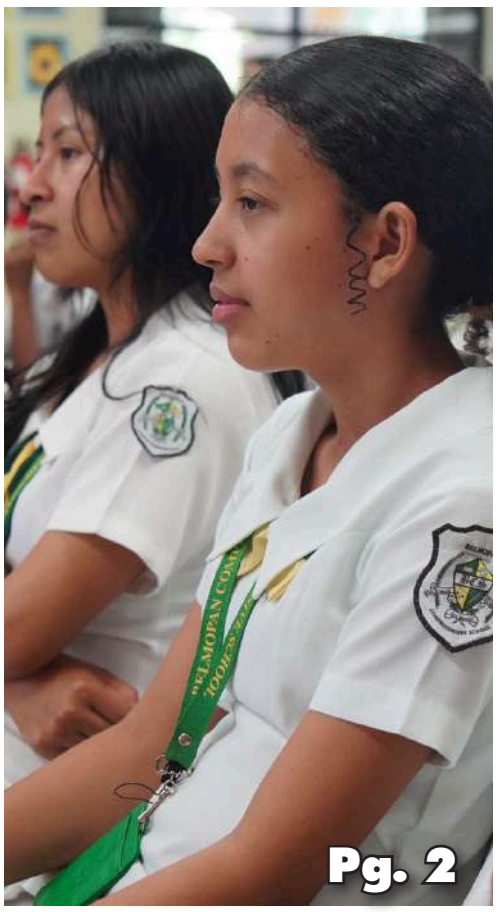

BELIZE IN INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINES | 75TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT(JAN. 15) ■ **Inside**

Resumption of Shipment to the US

BELIZE POSTAL SERVICE

In 2026, The Work Continues

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Embedded in the original document was the proviso that for these rights to be realized "government must LEAD and bold leaders must show that they really care."

The pillars/rights are:

First - Every Belizean should have access to a piece of land

Second - Every Belizean should be able to own a decent home

Third - Every Belizean should be given the chance to go to school from pre-school to Junior College

Fourth - Accessibility to quality basic health care is critical, which means every Belizean should be enrolled in the National Health Insurance Program

Fifth - and most important, the driving force behind it all is jobs

The PUP Government, the John Briceño administration in its second super majority approval by the electorate remains steadfast to the dictates of its covenant with the people and the data for the year in review for 2025 illustrates the continued success in serving the masses in its delivery. The mandate given to the Briceño Administration is rooted in a long-standing vision of justice, equity, and opportunity for all. Central to this vision is the Belizean Bill of Rights, a people-centered framework grounded in the belief that poverty is not just an economic condition, but a national failure that must be confronted head-on. At its core is a simple but powerful principle: every Belizean deserves a fair chance to build a secure, high quality and dignified life.

Land for Every Belizean

The first pillar of this Bill of Rights is access to land. Land ownership is more than possession; it is empowerment. It allows families to

build homes, grow food, access credit, and create generational wealth. In a country where land has historically been out of reach for many, especially women and young families, expanding access is a transformative act.

In 2025 alone, tangible progress was made. Purchase prices were issued to 6,173 first-time landowners, opening the door to ownership for thousands of Belizeans. A total of 4,905 land certificates and 5,253 grant fiats were processed, reflecting a system that is moving with urgency to correct decades of backlog and exclusion. Through land clinics and mobile outreach, the government has taken services directly to the people, ensuring that geography and income are no longer barriers.

The People's United Party has led the most aggressive land distribution effort in Belize's history, particularly for first-time owners. In this term, the expansion of mobile land clinics and the planned distribution of thousands of residential and agricultural plots under long-term leases and titles signal a clear commitment to inclusive development.

For ordinary Belizeans, this means stability, security, and opportunity. It means land to build on, farm on, and pass on. This is an unpresented transfer of wealth back to the people.

A Home for All

Flowing naturally from access to land is the second pillar of the Belizean Bill of Rights: the right to a decent home. The Briceño Administration recognizes that housing is not a privilege reserved for a few, but a basic necessity that underpins health, education, and economic mobility. Whether on Bocotora Street or Seashore Drive, in a city, town, or village, every Belizean deserves a safe place to call home.

In 2025, the government delivered 165 starter homes across the country, providing immediate relief and long-term security for families who previously lived in uncertainty. These homes are not just structures; they are foundations for dignity, stability, and hope. For many recipients, homeownership was once

unimaginable. Today, it is a reality.

Building on this progress, the People's United Party has committed to expanding the starter home program with a target of 500 new homes, including one- and two-bedroom units designed for small families, single parents, and vulnerable households. Alongside construction, the government is working to provide quicker access to subsidised housing loans, ensuring that ownership is financially attainable.

Crucially, the housing push is aligned with land distribution efforts. Belizeans are not just beneficiaries; they are shareholders in their homeland. By finalising the Maya Customary Land Tenure Policy and continuing historic land clinics, the government is addressing long-standing inequities while planning for sustainable growth.

For the ordinary Belizean man and woman, this housing agenda means security against rising rents, protection from poverty, and the ability to build a future for their children. It is policy with purpose, leadership with compassion. This is an unpresented transfer of wealth back to the people.

AFFORDABLE, AND RELEVANT EDUCATION

The Third Pillar - In 2025 Belize's education system registered successes in several areas as reported in the Ministry of Education's 2024-2025 annual report, which highlighted several key achievements as part of the Belize Education Sector Plan 2021-2025. From higher transition and completion rates to

improved student-teacher ratios. Growth in pre-primary enrollment and technological integration. The introduction of the Itz'at Academy, a specialized school focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, saw the enrollment of students with government subsidies to ensure access to high-quality education.

The fulcrum of the successes is the expanded Education Uplift-ment Project that resulted in the enrollment of 9,578 students across 21 institutions, which provided free tuition to 41.5% of all government and government-aided schools, reducing the financial burden on many struggling families. Apart from the tuition, uniforms, healthy start feed-

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Serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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EDITORIAL

Strength in Serving

Four hundred thousand Belizeans know and live in an inimitable bastion of democracy where participatory democracy is way beyond electoral politics. Our innovative approach to overcoming issues is the incomparable power of being a Belizean citizen. This tranquil haven called Belize is collectively the envy of the world, especially post-2020, as planBelize gelled, developed, and evolved into the system of governance for the people. Belizeans could clearly see the Opposition crumble and emerge as a fake group, helpless in the face of incessant progress. The rank incompetence and criminal corruption that bred in the UDP continues within the remnants of that ex-mass party. The Opposition and their media have failed multiple times in their attempt to derail planBelize's people-centric policies. Today's Government of Belize, under planBelize, is extremely competent and clearly transparent. The People's United Party took George Price's inspired Belizean Bill of Rights and its five central socio-economic pillars of access to Education, Health, Jobs, Land, and Housing and adapted them along with Family rights, Citizen Security, World Class Tourism, Farm-to-Table Agriculture, Rural Living, Transport, Infrastructure, Justice, Anti-Corruption and Governance—planBelize. A complete planBelize came about when the people of Belize participated, providing the final ingredient for real, thorough success. The PUP was serving the people, and the people are wholeheartedly participating in development—planBelize democracy.

Firstly, the Prime Minister and economic team tackled the worst of the UDP's infamies—throwing the country into near-depression pre-COVID. Today, we are aeons away from the UDP's over-50 % poverty rate, down to just over 20%. The latter number is one that the Prime Minister fervently dislikes and is the fuel that keeps him leading all policies with the direct intention of obliterating it. PM Briceño will push the planBelize policies to their utmost capacities until poverty is defeated. With dropout rates from Secondary schools falling, credit going to the Healthy Start programme, the Social Upliftment programme, New Competency Teaching, and additional Financial aid, the work continues until no child drops out. With Unemployment rates hovering at a statistically low outlier of 2 per cent, the planBelize government is actively funding the creation of a larger workforce, greater capacity, lower income tax, and higher wages. Even while rendering all public hospitals and clinics free of fees and waiving KHMH's debt, the government and Minister Bernard have multiple hospitals and polyclinics under construction, about to groundbreak, or in grant-funded feasibility studies. Land clinics that go to the people and engage in real, socially-just land regularisation, document processing, land title distribution, and lot leasing have increased the wealth of many Belizeans like never before. Many times, these first-time landowners also become first-time homeowners as they receive a starter house from the Ministry of Housing, one family at a time, with almost 200 homes in the last 15 months, adding to the planBelize total of more than a thousand built, delivered, or about to be. There is no better feeling than serving the people what is inherently their right as a born Belizean.

The last set of Municipal, General, and Village elections, which ended just six months ago, clearly shows that the vast majority truly sees and feels the progress and production of planBelize. As representatives, including PM Briceño, walk the streets and interact daily with the Belizean people, there is a sense that people are asking more of the highly performing government. Even with the aforementioned progress, the people want an even better standard of living, which has prompted the government to institute multiple short-term cost-saving measures, such as GST-free weekends, and long-term measures, including Lottery proceeds funding the National Health Insurance and actively attracting record-level Foreign Direct Investments. The government has been looking out for Medium, Small and Micro (MSME) businesses as they employ the bulk of the workforce. There is more: MSMEs can access funding, use movable assets as collateral, secure 20 per cent of government procurement, and receive continuous training through the OPM's BELTRAIDE. Belize's Tourism and Agricultural Sectors are busy on the international front, attracting visitors and trade, respectively, at levels never before seen, and both contribute to our record US half-billion-dollar foreign exchange reserves. Confidence in Belize from the IFIs and friends has enabled tremendous infrastructure development, including highways, rural roads, rural bridges, municipal bridges, and government buildings. Keeping up with the generation and technology, the government is well underway with full digitalisation, while our Energy independence gets closer to reality. PlanBelize works incessantly.

The strength of the People's United Party's administration is derived from the people they serve. As Belize progresses, the only group that fears this is the Opposition, which realises that a successful Belize means a PUP government for the foreseeable future and beyond. The people of Belize have bought into the Right Pan Track mindset. In 2026, Belize is winning as it works to increase the quality of life for everyone.

EDITORIAL

en Español

La Fuerza Del Servicio

Cuatrocientos mil beliceños conocen y viven en una bastión inimitable de la democracia, donde la democracia participativa va mucho más allá de la política electoral. Nuestro enfoque innovador para superar los problemas radica en el incomparable poder de ser ciudadano beliceño. Este tranquilo refugio llamado Belice es, colectivamente, la envidia del mundo, especialmente después de 2020, cuando el planBelice se consolidó, se desarrolló y evolucionó hasta convertirse en el sistema de gobierno para el pueblo. Los beliceños pudieron ver claramente cómo la oposición se desmoronaba y se revelaba como un grupo falso, impotente ante el progreso incesante. La incompetencia y la corrupción criminal que se gestaron en el UDP continúan en los restos de ese antiguo partido mayoritario. La oposición y sus medios de comunicación han fracasado en múltiples ocasiones en su intento de descarrilar las políticas centradas en las personas del planBelice. El actual Gobierno de Belice, bajo el planBelice, es extremadamente competente y claramente transparente. El Partido Unido del Pueblo tomó la inspirada Carta de Derechos de Belice de George Price y sus cinco pilares socioeconómicos centrales de acceso a la educación, la salud, el empleo, la tierra y la vivienda, y los adaptó junto con los derechos de la familia, la seguridad ciudadana, el turismo de clase mundial, la agricultura de la granja a la mesa, la vida rural, el transporte, la infraestructura, la justicia, la lucha contra la corrupción y la gobernanza: planBelice. El planBelice se materializó cuando el pueblo de Belice participó, aportando el ingrediente final para un éxito real y completo. El PUP estaba al servicio del pueblo, y el pueblo participa de todo corazón en el desarrollo: la democracia del planBelice.

En primer lugar, el primer ministro y el equipo económico abordaron la peor de las infamias del UDP: sumir al país en una situación cercana a la depresión antes de la COVID. Hoy en día, estamos muy lejos de la tasa de pobreza superior al 50 % del UDP, que ha disminuido a poco más del 20 %. Esta última cifra es una de las que más detesta el primer ministro y es el combustible que le impulsa a liderar todas las políticas con la intención directa de erradicarla. El primer ministro Briceño impulsará las políticas del planBelice al máximo hasta que se erradique la pobreza. Con la disminución de las tasas de abandono escolar en la enseñanza secundaria, gracias al programa Healthy Start, al programa Social Upliftment, a la enseñanza de nuevas competencias y a la ayuda financiera adicional, el trabajo continúa hasta que ningún niño abandone los estudios. Con tasas de desempleo que se sitúan en un 2 % estadísticamente bajo, el gobierno de planBelice está financiando activamente la creación de una mayor mano de obra, una mayor capacidad, un menor impuesto sobre la renta y salarios más altos. A pesar de que todos los hospitales y clínicas públicos son gratuitos y se ha condonado la deuda del KHMH, el Gobierno y el ministro Bernard tienen varios hospitales y policlínicas en construcción, a punto de comenzar o en fase de estudios de viabilidad financiados con subvenciones. Las clínicas de tierras que acuden a la población y se dedican a la regularización real y socialmente justa de las tierras, la tramitación de documentos, la distribución de títulos de propiedad y el arrendamiento de parcelas han aumentado la riqueza de muchos beliceños como nunca antes. Muchas veces, estos nuevos propietarios de tierras también se convierten en propietarios de viviendas por primera vez, ya que reciben una vivienda inicial del Ministerio de Vivienda, una familia a la vez, con casi 200 viviendas en los últimos 15 meses que se suman al total de más de mil viviendas construidas, entregadas o a punto de serlo del planBelice. No hay mejor sensación que servir al pueblo, lo cual es inherentemente su derecho como beliceños de nacimiento.

La última serie de elecciones municipales, generales y locales, que finalizaron hace solo seis meses, muestra claramente que la gran mayoría ve y siente de verdad el progreso y los resultados del planBelice. A medida que los representantes, incluido el primer ministro Briceño, recorren las calles e interactúan a diario con el pueblo beliceño, se percibe que la gente pide más a un gobierno de alto rendimiento. A pesar de los avances mencionados, la gente quiere un nivel de vida aún mejor, lo que ha llevado al Gobierno a instaurar múltiples medidas de ahorro a corto plazo, como los fines de semana sin IVA, y medidas a largo plazo, como la financiación del Seguro Nacional de Salud con los ingresos de la lotería y la atracción activa de inversiones extranjeras directas a niveles récord. El Gobierno ha prestado especial atención a las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas (MIPYMES), ya que emplean a la mayor parte de la población activa. Y hay más: las MIPYMES pueden acceder a financiación, utilizar activos muebles como garantía, asegurarse el 20 % de la contratación pública y recibir formación continua a través de BELTRAIDE y de la OPM. Los sectores turístico y agrícola de Belice están muy activos en el ámbito internacional, atrayendo, respectivamente, visitantes y comercio a niveles nunca antes vistos, y ambos contribuyen a nuestras reservas de divisas récord de 500 millones de dólares estadounidenses. La confianza de las instituciones financieras internacionales y de nuestros amigos en Belice ha permitido un enorme desarrollo de la infraestructura, incluyendo autopistas, carreteras rurales, puentes rurales, puentes municipales y edificios gubernamentales. En consonancia con la generación y la tecnología, el Gobierno avanza a buen ritmo en la digitalización total, mientras que nuestra independencia energética se acerca cada vez más a la realidad. El planBelice funciona sin cesar.

La fuerza de la administración del Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP) proviene de las personas a las que sirve. A medida que Belice progresa, el único grupo que teme es la oposición que se da cuenta de que un Belice exitoso implica un gobierno del PUP en el futuro previsible y más allá. El pueblo de Belice ha adoptado la mentalidad de Right Pan Track. En 2026, Belice está ganando mientras trabaja para mejorar la calidad de vida de todos.

Sugar Roads Maintaining Economic Arteries, An Year Round Task

La Zafra is about to begin. In Belize it means the harvesting of the sugarcane in the north of the country. Cane loaders and modern crabs will be out in full force loading the cane trucks which will then deliver the cane strips to be milled at the BSI/ASR sugar factory located by Tower Hill in Orange Walk. The Sugar industry is one of the biggest and, in many years, it is the biggest foreign exchange earner in Belize. Its importance to the economy and the lives of many makes its success a priority for the PUP government.

Taking care of the sugar roads is one of the maintenance have-to's every year and year-round. The MIDH posted: "Various teams have been dispatched to upgrade sugar roads in the north, ensuring that farmers can access their fields and get their cane to the mill. This used to be a seasonal operation, but we try to do what we can year round because there are so many sugar roads and we understand the critical importance of this industry."

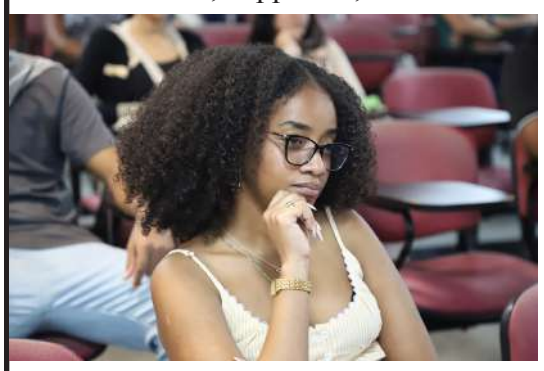
A visit to the Northern districts can give you a firsthand insight to the grass plant called sugarcane, its delivery and maybe even a visit to the factory.

The cane industry, in general, and the cane famer, specifically, have been at war with a Fusarium fungus that threatened to kill the industry. Funds and time have been pumped in to save the industry and the success of this is still being quantified. Time will tell. (more pictures can be seen on the centerfold)

January's Back to School

From pre-school to the University of Belize, all students are back behind their desks or workstations. Belize's students are definitely excited to kick off 2026 with more learning.

At UB, they warmly welcomed their newest students at a New Student Orientation! According to a social media post, "Friendly faces, helpful guidance, and even fun raffle prizes is what today is all about for our new Black Jaguars! Our goal is to ensure that every student feels confident, supported, and at home as they start their UB journey."



The nation's main Uni offers a new beginning, new friendships, and a year full of growth and achievement. All our schools are training the future stewards of the country. The government continues to supports them as their success is Belize's success.

TENDER

The Provision of Marine Support Services for Belize District

Belize Electricity Limited invites tenders for the Provision of Marine Support Services **starting on Friday, January 9, 2026.** The works include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provide marine vessels, lifting equipment, commercial diving services, and offshore operations support.

Location:
Belize District – Marine distance between San Pedro (South) and Caye Caulker (North)

Bidders are also invited to a **pre-bid meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2026,** that will be held in **Belize City at the BEL Magazine Road Compound.** The meeting will be immediately followed by a site visit to the work area, which will be conducted via a boat provided by BEL.

Interested bidders can email their request for a copy of the bid document to **bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz,** which outlines all duties and responsibilities of the contract.

Tenders must be submitted via email **no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on Friday, February 6, 2026.**

Email: bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz
Email Subject: BID #NCB-032601-WORKS – Provision of Marine Support Services – Belize District

Kindly send names of personnel attending the pre-bid meeting to **bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz** using the email subject provided. Bidders will be required to submit a fixed price quotation to perform the services as outlined in the tender document.

For more information or queries, send email to bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz

BEL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for BEL's action. BEL will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 2/2026

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $64,391,800.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 and will be redeemed on Tuesday 21 April 2026.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 16 January 2026.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Friday 20 January 2026.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement
System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

2 January 2026

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize
Process ID: BL-L1040 -P00040
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Central Executing Unit, Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **January 16, 2026; 9:30 a.m. (Local Belize Time) (EXTENSION)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the Project**: "**Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Monitoring & Evaluation Officer".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-trade-and-investment-facilitation-program-for-belize-monitoring-evaluation-officer-individual-consultant-0030-mof-2025-2/ and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sandeep Betancourt
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Monitoring & Evaluation Officer" – Name of consultant.

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) (WORKS)

Design and Build for Corozal Town Public Spaces and Facilities

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program
Process ID: BL-L1046-P00011
Deadline: **January 16, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Belize Time) (EXTENSION)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the Program's proceeds to procure the services of a Company for the **"Design and Build for Corozal Town (Mother's Park Upgrading, Children's Park Upgrading, Basketball Court and Amphitheatre Area Enhancement, Seaside Pathway Construction, Fisherman's Pier Upgrading, Municipal Pier Upgrading)".**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested companies to access the full version of this RFB online at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-design-and-build-for-corozal-town-public-spaces-and-facilities-works-0031-mof2025/ and to submit their Bid in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sandeep Betancourt
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
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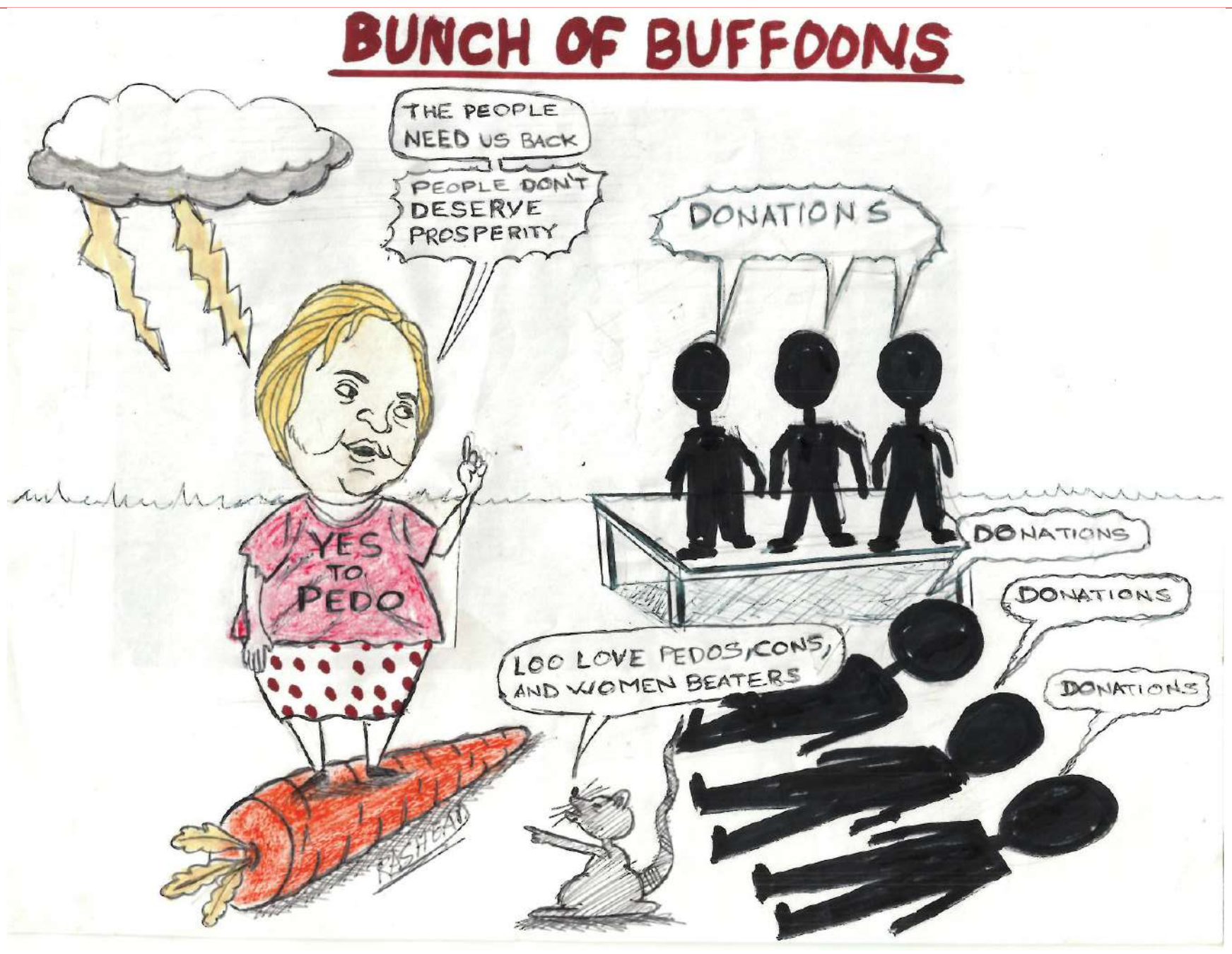


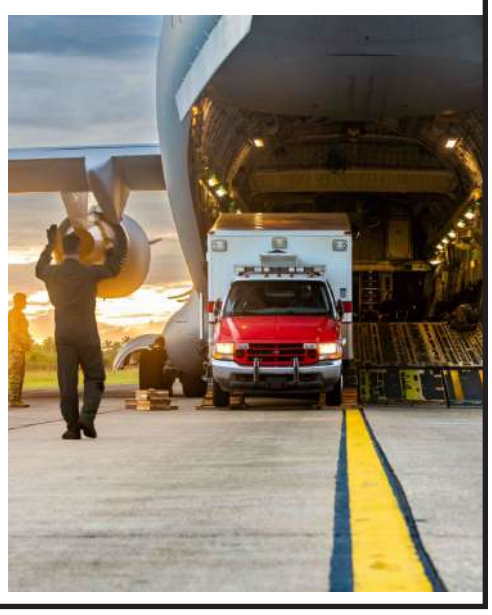
Ambulance Donation

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from Joint Base Lewis-McChord delivered four emergency vehicles to Southern Emergency Services, to be used to support emergency response efforts in communities across Belize.

The United States supports Belize and regional neighbors through the Denton Humanitarian Assistance Program, which transports donated relief supplies such as medical equipment, school materials, and food on U.S. military aircraft at no cost to donors.

Turning unused cargo space into meaningful support is one way #SOUTHCOM helps strengthen partnerships by building a safer, stronger, and more prosperous region. (embassy post)

The people of Belize definitely say a giant Thank You!



DEVELOPING BELIZE

PLANBELIZE'S OPEN ACCESS TO EDUCATION, JOBS, LAND, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE

Continued from Pg. 2

ing program, and transportation are important components of the E-UP.

The 2025 successes in the education sector demonstrate the government's commitment and progress towards the goal outlined in the national plan to "Make Education Work For Belize", by prioritizing access, equity, and quality.

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

The Fourth Pillar: The Belize health sector care successes for 2025, were complemented by the EU-funded Health Sector Support Programme (HSSP) which concluded in September 2025 and included the launch of the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2025-2034- A Healthier, Empowered Belize through a Resilient, Equitable, and People-Centred Health System. Additionally, significant retrofitting of the Punta Gorda Hospital and the Corozal Hospital. The Ministry installed enhanced training for over 200 health workers. The advancement of digital health via the Clinical Data Exchange Platform (CDEP) and strengthening NCD management (Hearts Initiative) and maintaining a malaria-free status.

However, it is Belize's National Health Insurance (NHI) program that has made significant positive impacts on health access, quality, and affordability since its introduction. In a 2013 study, it was revealed that districts with NHI contracts saw greater improvement in facility births, nurse density, and a reduction in maternal mortality and diabetes deaths compared to districts without contracts. Also, users have reported that NHI saves them significant money on healthcare. There are official outcomes that confirm the program has reduced out-of-

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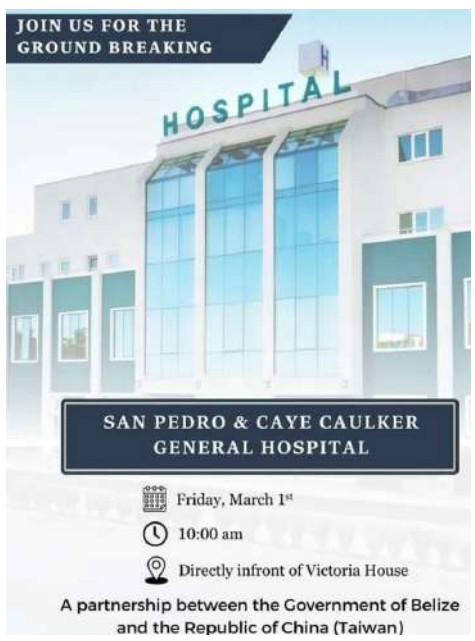

JOIN US FOR THE GROUND BREAKING
HOSPITAL
SAN PEDRO & CAYE CAULKER GENERAL HOSPITAL
Friday, March 1st
10:00 am
Directly infront of Victoria House
A partnership between the Government of Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan)

DEVELOPING BELIZE - PLANBELIZE'S OPEN ACCESS TO EDUCATION, JOBS, LAND, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE

Continued from Pg. 7

pocket expenditures for covered services. Importantly, countrywide there are 342, 000 persons with a valid social security card eligible to register for NHI. Of those 214, 000 persons have registered for the program and are active users of the NHI Services. These measured successes embody that "**Healthy Society is a Wealthy Society** ".

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

The Fifth Pillar - one of the primary focuses of the PUP coming into office a fter winning the General Elections was to "rid our shores of the scourge that is poverty." It meant rescuing the spiralling economy, left by the incompetent Barrow administration, through economic growth and creating employment opportunities. Unemployment stood at 13.7% in September 2020. In 2025, employment in Belize saw a significant improvement, marked by a record-low unemployment rate and substantial growth in the tourism sector and the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). The latter now employs > 20k workers who annually earn 160 million dollars; this is over 10 per cent of our GDP. The Global Digital arena is ready to move BPO's to the next level.

In September 2025, the preliminary results from the Statistical Institute of Belize's most recent Labour Force Survey (LFS) indicated that the unemployment rate was 1.9 percent, down from 2.1 percent in 2024. In September 2025, there were 178, 442 persons employed, with males representing almost three-fifths of this total. Compared to September 2024, the tourism industry recorded the largest gain in share of employed persons, with an increase of 2.7 percentage points.

Economic growth to 6.1 percent in the third quarter following a 2.0 percent growth in the first quarter created a robust environment for job creation.

The tertiary sector, which includes services like 'Accommodation and food services' and 'Financial and insurance services' was the main driver of economic growth and job creation.

The BPOs expanded significantly, registering 10 percent of the total employment and attracted new investments that also fueled the construction industry.

A USD 8 million financing package from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was signed to expand the Labour Force participation and improve employability in the high-demand sectors like tourism, BPO and ICT.

The strong economic recovery coupled with the improved employment landscape resulted in a decrease in the incidence of poverty to 19.1 in September 2025.

The must be noted that the rise and consequent support for the MSME's consolidated their position as the leading employer in the country.

The successes of the fifth pillar in 2025 underscore the government and the Briceño administration in ridding the shores of Belize of the scourge of poverty.

By Hilly Bennett, Esau Ferguson, Jose Jimenez

Ministry of
Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs

WHAT WE DO WEDNESDAY

Get to know the work of the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs

Every Wednesday, the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs will highlight the programmes, services, and initiatives that support individuals, strengthen families, and empower communities across Belize.

Through What We Do Wednesday, the public will gain greater insight into the work of our departments, the people behind the service, and the impact of social protection, family support, gender affairs, and community rehabilitation initiatives nationwide.

We invite the public to follow and engage with us every Wednesday on our official social media platforms.

Facebook & Instagram:

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs

Serving People. Strengthening Families. Building Communities.

Agriculture News

2026 Outlook Session for Global Environment Facility

An end of year review and 2026 outlook session for Global Environment Facility projects in Belize was held today in Belmopan City.

Present were Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of State Alex Balona and CEO Servulo Baeza.

The GEF-6 "Integrated management of production landscapes to deliver multiple global environmental benefits"

Project area is in the Belize River Watershed. It's objective: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land and water management into production landscapes in Belize; and delivery of multiple Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable production and improved value chains for key agricultural and forest products from the Belize River Watershed. The project team includes the Agro-processing unit, Agronomy section, Belize, Cayo, and Livestock.

Immediate next steps:

1. Agronomy section - Emergency seed bank/Germplasm bank; nursery expansion
2. Cayo: Establish sheep silvopasture model farm; honey* as a value chain with focus on standardization and marketing
3. Livestock Central Farm: Strengthen pasture management and genetic improvement
4. Agro-processing unit: Refurbish building; upgrade/enhance processing equipment
5. Belize: Genetic improvement for cattle within the BRW; tilapia* as a value chain to youths and vulnerable communities
6. South-south exchange: Explore Ramon nut in Peten, Guatemala (post)

The Government of Belize - Providing Water Security Across Belize

January 8, 2026 - The Government of Belize continues to demonstrate strong commitment to rural development by delivering meaningful water infrastructure improvements across multiple districts, ensuring that rural families have reliable access to one of life's most essential resources.

Corozal District Village Tour

Minister Florencio Marin and CEO Valentino Shal at the time toured multiple Corozal villages, engaging leaders in discussions on water expansion, roads, sports facilities, education, and sanitation. Communities welcomed direct dialogue, with early projects already identified to improve daily life across the district.

Sarteneja, Corozal

Sarteneja received a major boost with the arrival and commissioning of a new Reverse Osmosis plant. Funded by PACT and the Government of Belize, the plant restores high-quality potable water, resolving challenges caused by the failure of the previous system in 2022.

Corozal Water System Support

Six Corozal communities benefited from donated weed eaters and a riding mower to maintain rural water systems. This equipment improves safety, cleanliness, and efficiency, ensuring water infrastructure remains functional and dependable for residents relying on community-managed systems.

San Estevan, Orange Walk

San Estevan's newly rehabilitated water system reflects forward planning amid climate change and population growth. The project included a new well, upgraded pumps, a modern pump house, and new pipelines, ensuring a sustainable, long-term water supply for families and businesses.

Orange Walk District Projects

From Nuevo San Juan to San Jose Palmar, water system expansions and safety upgrades continue across Orange Walk. Pipe handovers, meter installations, and reservoir improvements ensure safer operations, broader access, and long-term reliability for growing villages.

Cristo Rey, Cayo

A major electrical upgrade in Cristo Rey Village transitioned the water system to three-phase power. This allows stronger pumps, reduced downtime, and a more consistent water flow, ensuring households receive reliable service while lowering long-term maintenance costs.

Unitedville, Cayo

Drilling of a new production well in Unitedville Village represents a significant investment in water sustainability. Supported by MIDH, the project strengthens local infrastructure, supporting community growth, public health, and resilience against future water shortages.

Red Bank, Stann Creek

In Red Bank Village, donated pipes and fittings will extend the water system into new expansion areas. This investment ensures growing neighborhoods gain direct access to clean, potable water, supporting orderly development and improved living standards.

Middlesex, Stann Creek

Middlesex Village marked a milestone with new materials supporting its independent water system. The project resolves low-pressure issues and allows expansion into new residential areas, benefiting over 350 residents through strong inter-ministerial and community collaboration.

Santa Cruz, Stann Creek

Emergency repairs in Santa Cruz restored water service after swift mobilization by the Ministry's rig team. Through collaboration with local leaders and the Water Board, a new pump was installed, minimizing disruption and safeguarding clean water access for residents.

Continued on Pg. 11

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Human Resources and Compliance Departments.

The Senior Administrative Assistant supports the Manager's office and the respective department by ensuring effective communication and efficient operation of priority matters. The role optimizes the Manager's time through planning, scheduling, and monitoring of departmental responsibilities.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Receive, screen, and prioritize telephone calls, emails, and other correspondence directed to the Manager's office.
- Respond to correspondence in accordance with established guidelines and draft correspondence for the Manager's review and signature.
- Support the Manager and department with daily, weekly, and monthly planning to ensure all matters are addressed in a timely manner.
- Develop and maintain effective follow-up systems to monitor the implementation of the Manager's directives, decisions, and requests within agreed timelines.
- Follow up on time-sensitive issues and keep the Manager advised of their status.
- Coordinate the Manager's and department's participation in domestic and international meetings, conferences, and events, including securing agendas and preparing required documentation.
- Maintain Manager's office and departmental records in accordance with established guidelines, ensuring highest level of confidentiality.
- Manage stationery and office supplies to maintain adequate inventory levels and ensure timely distribution.
- Plan and execute assigned projects and events, including management retreats and regional activities coordinated from the Manager's office.
- Prepare, reconcile, and file weekly and monthly leave and attendance reports for departmental personnel.
- Perform other duties as required to support the department's functions.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A preferred qualification of an associate's degree in business administration, or a related field from a recognized tertiary institution, with at least three (3) years of relevant experience; Possession of an Advanced (Executive) Administrative Professional Certificate will be considered a strong asset.
- A minimum qualification of an associate's degree in business administration, or a related field from a recognized tertiary institution, with at least two years (2) years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of office administration and confidentiality standards; Strong communication (oral and written), customer service and relation-building skills; Project management skills; Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organizational Ability, Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Job Knowledge, Quality of Output, Deportment, Problem Solving/Judgement.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 21 January 2026**:

- Central Bank Employment Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates
- Two (2) current references (at least one must be from a previous or current employer)

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Senior Administrative Assistant

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

The Government of Belize Providing Water Security Across Belize

Continued from Pg. 10

Santa Rosa and San Roman, Stann Creek

After fourteen years of recurring water shortages, Santa Rosa and San Roman villages now enjoy a stable potable water supply. Through partnership with UNICEF and local leadership, a rudimentary water system now meets residents' needs, ending years of uncertainty and hardship.

San Pedro Columbia, Toledo

The successful drilling of a new production well in San Pedro Columbia Village marks a major breakthrough for residents who regularly face dry-season shortages. Using a newly acquired rig truck, the Ministry ensured reliable, year-round water access, strengthening health, sanitation, and daily living conditions.

San Marcos, Toledo

In San Marcos Village, a backup production well has been successfully drilled, providing an added layer of water security. This vital improvement safe-

guards the community against system failures and dry-season stress, ensuring households maintain consistent access to potable water when it matters most.

Bladen Village, Toledo

Despite challenging access, the Bladen Village water pump was successfully replaced through teamwork between Ministry crews and residents. This collective effort restored essential water service, highlighting strong community partnership and commitment to maintaining vital rural infrastructure.

San Isidro, Toledo

San Isidro Village now has a newly completed and connected production well, ending years of low pressure and scarcity. Families benefit immediately from consistent water access, improving sanitation, household tasks, and overall quality of life throughout the community.

These nationwide efforts reflect sustained investment, partnership, and action—truly a government delivering for the People. Let's say that these are the latest water updates but the list is more extensive and could include Chunox and upcoming in Jalacte and Corazon Creek. The Work Continues and is relentless.

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Reliant and Resilient Energy System Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-458623-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: January 16, 2026; 9:30 a.m. (Local Belize Time) (EXTENSION)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the Project**: "**Belize Reliant and Resilient Energy System Project".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of an **"Environmental Specialist".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-belize-reliant-and-resilient-energy-system-project-environmental-specialist-individual-consultant-0032-mof2025/ and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sandeep Betancourt
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106'
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Environmental Specialist-BRRES" – Name of consultant.

WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

SOCIAL SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Reliant and Resilient Energy System Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI-521161-CS-INDV
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: January 26, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the **"**Belize Reliant and Resilient Energy System Project", being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Social Specialist".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-brres-social-specialist-individual-consultant-0038-mof-2025/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sandeep Betancourt
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106'
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

In 2026, The Work Continues

Special Envoy Rossana Briceño w/ Palms of Belize Foundation on Christmas Day

w/ children of Hope Haven Children's Home & Empowerment Center in San Pedro Town

Belmopan City Council & NICH

Supporting Culture in the New Year

Hon. Ramirez, Corozal Northwest

New Year Spectacular Event

Hon. Cervantes, OW North

Water to Nuevo San Juan Village

Collaboration: Mins Requena, MRT; Espat, MIDH, & Hn. Ferguson

New Productions Wells in Santa Cruz, SCreek & Unitedville, Cayo.

Corozal TC

Paving of San Andres Rd.

Belize CC & Hon. Fonseca, Freetown

Work of Starfish Crescent

MIDH & Area Reps Collaborate in Upgrading All-Important SUGAR ROADS

Louisville #1, Czl Southwest

Improvements in Cimmaron 1-3, OWD

Ongoing in San Lorenzo, San Luis OWD

Sta. Martha, OW East

Widening Shoulders in Honey Camp Ext.

Heavy Grading in El Posito, OWD

Heavy grading & Cleaning Shoulders, Xubunha 1, 2

MIDH ALL OVER BELIZE

Hon. Balderamos Garcia - Oil well road in Ladyville

Benque TC - On Independence St.

Hon. Cervantes, OWN – Otro Benque

Hon. Leal, BRN – Rancho Dolores Rd.

Road Maintenance Unit

On TV Ramos Highway

On Old Northern Highway

Hon. Martinez, Toledo East

w/ MIDH at Monkey River's approach

w/ MRT building dock at Monkey River

Plan Belize 2.0

right plan track

'Vamos Bien

vamos bien

Curbing the Cost of Living

#planBelize 2.0

Progress for All Belizeans

- ✓ MSME Tax Amnesty
- ✓ BPO move to Global Digital
- ✓ $5 Minimum Wage soon up to $6
- ✓ 8.5 per cent raise for teachers and public servants
- ✓ Raise in Subsidy for UB
- ✓ Financial Aid to hundreds of Students
- ✓ Free Education at 23 Schools/12,00 plus Students:
  Tuition, Books, Device, Uniform, Meals, Transport
- ✓ Raising Income Tax Threshold for thousands
- ✓ Price Barrack Commissary for Police, BDF, & Coast Guard
- ✓ Healthy Start Meals reach 15,000 Students Daily
- ✓ Back to School – GST-free Weekends
- ✓ Christmas – GST-free Weekends
- ✓ Expanded the list of controlled goods
- ✓ Enforcement of price gouging laws
- ✓ Issuing tickets to businesses that violate the rules
- ✓ Exemption from GST and Customs Duties on Feminine hygiene products
- ✓ Passing on Savings on Butane
- ✓ GoB Stabilize Cost of Regular and Diesel Fuels
- ✓ Public Hospitals are FEE Free
- ✓ NHI Health Care Access
- ✓ People's Boledo proceeds for Health care & Sports
- ✓ Access to Housing and Land decreases the need for rent
- ✓ NO new taxes
- ✓ Buy Belize policy benefitting local

MORE OF PLAN BELIZE 2.0

Diversification of Crops
Debt-to-GDP Shrinking
Stable MacroEconomy
Fortification of Green/Blue/Orange Economies
Changing Laws for MSME development
Confidence ensures Record Foreign Direct Investment
Internationally Renowned Blue Bond
Western Hemisphere Leader in GDP growth
Tourism record numbers – Overnight and Flight
Innovative New Enterprises
Respected by the world

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

RESUMPTION OF SHIPMENTS OF GOODS TO THE UNITED STATES

On Friday, August 29, 2025, Executive Order 14324 was effected removing the de minimis threshold that previously allowed packages valued under USD 800 to enter the United States (US) duty-free. This meant that all goods were taxed from the first dollar, and customs duties were paid by the sender prior to the item entering the US. Subsequently, the Belize Postal Services suspended shipments of goods to the country, citing unresolved questions regarding liability, tax collection and logistics. At the time of the announced suspension many small businesses in Belize that relied on international e-commerce felt the impact.

The Government of Belize issued a press release regarding the temporary suspension of certain shipments into the United States of America. Dr. Marsha Price, Postmaster General explained that *"We work under the umbrella of the Universal Postal Union, which is in direct contact with the United States Government to see how it works."*

On December 31, 2025, the Government of Belize issued a press release announcing the resumption of all outbound shipments to the United States effective January 7, 2026. It establishes that the BPS will now process shipments through the Universal Postal Union's Delivered Duty Paid (DDP) Global Solutions.

The objective of the adoption of the UPU's DDP solution is to position Belize as a regional leader in compliant International postal logistics ensuring that Belizean businesses, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), retain uninterrupted access to customers in the United States.

Dr. Price expressed *"The Belize Postal Service is committed to maintaining secure, reliable, and globally compliant postal services. By implementing the UPU's Delivered Duty Paid solution, we are not only meeting new US regulatory requirements but also strengthening Belize's ability to participate in international e-commerce."* The recent announcement brings a sense of relief to small business owners like local skincare brand Coco Love Belize, who expressed frustration when the suspension was announced.

According to the Belize Postal Service, it remains dedicated to connecting Belize with the world, safely, efficiently, and in full compliance with international standards.

LETTER TO THE Editor

Danger in Buses

Dear Editor,

A passenger was beat up in a bus…. will give details later in this letter.

It is me again. It is 2026 and the old buses are still rolling. I see how the dams and bought and shares sold… makes me wonder if that cannot be imposed on the bus owners. They seem satisfied with status quo.

As I have said more than once… How can the bus owners state their case when they cannot ne accountable since no tickets are sold transparently. Am not sure if Floralia can but without a point of sales I cannot see how they can pay taxes.

Instead of dealing with the motorcycles which in large part are owned by people stretching their dalla, the buses and terminals are taking TOO long to fix. Sorry, I want TODAY…any reference to months away is too long.

This passenger went into the bus and sat. He did not kno that a bag on the seat was equal to somebody who will come back. Yes, if one is not used to travelling, you can make that mistake. Well this escalated to violence and the man ended with scratch marks on his face as he has hit by a few. He became a standee. Later a few miles down the road he tried to get a video of his aggressors; that was not nice. The victim decided he would just exit the bus in the middle of nowhere.

Can you imagine?

Was this reported to the authorities? Did the bus owner even know? This person could have been seriously hurt or more. I feared for my safety.

Simple: If tickets were being sold, then this would not happen.

The incident above is beyond normalcy and I re-submit that the bus situation must be taken into account today not months or years ahead. I am putting the blame on the bus owners who rather lawyer up than get new buses and system.

The reason the Minister has to walk carefully around you bus owner is because you are staking advantage of all the loopholes to take advantage of the commuters.

Thanks for the opportunity.

xxx

PUP Bus Commuter

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Chan Pine Ridge, Libertad, Warree Bight, Corozal District; San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District; San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize City, Belize District; Unitedville, San Ignacio, Cayo District: Independence Village, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicles. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. **Parcel No. 32/1 Chan Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Chan Pine Ridge	4	32/1
The leasehold property of Mr. German Tzul.		

2. **Parcel No. 666 Libertad Village, Corozal District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Libertad Village	1	666
The Freehold property of Mr. Reginald Diego.		

3. **Parcel No. 368 Warree Bight/Freshwater Creek, Chunox Village, Corozal District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Warree Bight/Freshwater Creek	3	368
The Freehold property of Mr. Rene Tun.		

4. **Parcel No. 523 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
San Estevan	1	523
The Freehold property of Ms. Sue Ann Palomo.		

5. **Parcel No. 1500 San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
San Pedro	7	1500
The Freehold property of Ms. Kristy Pisarczyk.		

6. **Parcel No. 4619 Society Hall, Unitedville Santa Elena, Cayo District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
United Village	24	4619
The Freehold property of Mr. Edwin Flowers.		

7. **Parcel No. 3028 West of Poison Wood Street, San Ignacio, Cayo District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
San Ignacio North	23	3028
The Freehold property of Ms. Kenberly Gibbs.		

8. **Lot No. 48 Hercules Avenue, Independence Village, Stann Creek District:**

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 48 comprising 572.864 square meters of land situate in Independence Village, Stann Creek District. (The freehold property of Ms. Lourdes Rudon.)

9. **Vehicles**

2010 Black Chevy Equinox

2007 Toyota Sienna

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

Why Belize Should Be Every Black Woman's Next Escape

By Elizabeth Ayoola

I thought the Central American destination would be a nice getaway, at most, but it turned into a spiritual escape.

When you travel to enough places, you realize some locations hold a magic that can't be replicated. Belize, initially inconspicuous on my list of places to travel, is a Narnia containing said magic. I recently visited this small but mighty place, and what I thought would be a decent trip turned into a spiritual escape.

Considering my word for 2025 is "divinity," there isn't a better place I could have visited to get the spiritual nourishment and grounding I needed. Belize reminded me that sometimes the most spiritual things you can do are to play and explore nature. Belize offers both, creating opportunities for adventure, cultural immersion, community, and connection.

Located in Central America and home to over 400,000 people, the destination was a nod to my ancestral roots and a reminder that there are still many places in the world where Black women belong. Here are ways this country can serve as your own refuge.

IT'S A CULTURAL MELTING POT

Pre-colonial Belize was home to the Maya people. They're known as the first inhabitants of the land, and some of their descendants are still present today. When I visited the Xunantunich Archaeological Site, a classic Maya archaeological zone in the Cayo District, I saw ancient structures built by this group. It was a tangible testament to their progressive and innovative spirit.

Belize has a noticeable Afro-Caribbean community, a result of British colonizers who introduced both enslaved and free people of African and Caribbean descent to the country. Consequently, Maya people aside, the Belizean people also include Kriol (descendants of enslaved Africans) and Garifuna (descendants of an Afro-indigenous population from the Caribbean island of St Vincent). You'll also notice Mestizo, East Indian, Mennonite, Arab, and Chinese people spread throughout.

I was able to connect with the West African influences, considering I'm Nigerian. It was insightful to learn that some words they use in the Kriol and Garifuna languages are of West African origin. And if you visit Belize in September, you may get the chance to attend the Belize Soca and Culture Festival, which celebrates the nation's customs.

PLANTS ARE MEDICINE

There was something numinous about Belize, and I can partially attribute it to the way the people lean on plants as medicine. They call it "bush medicine," which is the traditional use of native plants to treat a range of ailments. It felt like an introduction to plant medicine and the ways nature often provides most of what we need to survive.

My introduction to bush medicine was at the Museum of Belize in Belize City, once the capital of the former British Honduras. I passed there briefly during a Tuktuk Belize sightseeing tour. I learned that Belizeans use moringa leaves for energy and diabetes; senna leaves for constipation; gumbo limbo for skin conditions and fevers; and cedar bark for cough and inflammation. The list goes on, but there seemed to be a plant for just about everything.

Learning about how plants are used was empowering for me as a Black woman who is often vulnerable to marginalization and discrimination within Western healthcare systems. While modern medicine has its uses, I also believe it's important to understand how to use what grows from the ground to maintain optimal health.

FLAVORFUL FARM-TO-TABLE FOOD

What you put into your body can affect your physical and spiritual health. Thankfully, Belize is full of wholesome, flavorful, and healthy fare. Many of the dishes I enjoyed were farm-to-table, leaving me dreaming about the meals weeks later. Although Belize is culturally diverse, dominant dishes that are widely enjoyed include rice and beans, stew chicken and salad, and boil up, which is a mix of fish, cassava, eggs, pigtails, ripe bananas, and

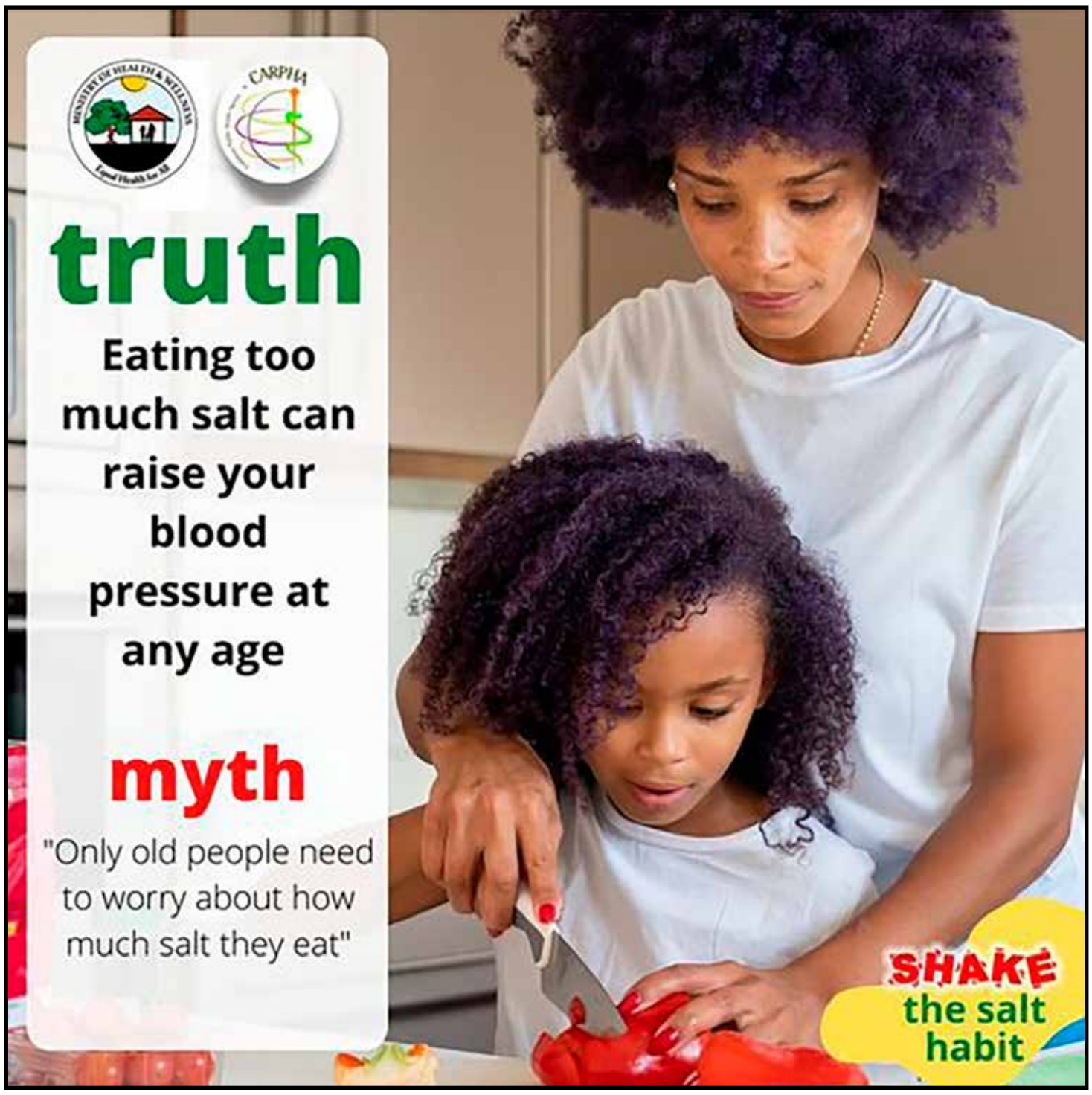
Continued on page 17

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the below company has been dissolved and struck off the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Register with effect from the date indicated:

Name of Company	Date
ESPINASA BELIZE LTD.	29th December, 2025
ELIO INVESTMENTS LTD.	29th December, 2025

Icaza Belize Trust Corporation Limited
Registered Agent


truth
Eating too much salt can raise your blood pressure at any age
myth
"Only old people need to worry about how much salt they eat"
SHAKE the salt habit

Why Belize Should Be Every Black Woman's Next Escape

Continued from page 16

more.

One of my favorite activities was going to a cooking class with a woman named Darla who runs a food business alongside her husband. We learned to make Belizean-style rice, beans, and chicken over an open flame.

If you're ever in Belize, visiting Midpoint Bar & Grill in Belize City is also a must. I had the most delectable grilled fish, rice, and plantain I've had in years. The portions are generous, the food was fresh and flavorful, and the ambiance is unmatched.

EXPERIENCE NATURE AS WONDER

One of the most ineffable aspects of Belize is the outdoors. I had two unforgettable experiences: the Dark Knight Cave Tubing Adventure and snorkeling at Mexico Rocks. Both activities gave me the space to be adventurous while learning about plants and the Maya culture.

During the former, I traveled to a secluded location in the jungle, filled with lush greenery and some of the most mysterious and enchanting caves I've seen. The ziplining adventure was one for the books—I went on a total of seven, and the most exhilarating one zipped me into a cave where we found some artwork by the Maya people.

During the tour, I was impressed by the guide's knowledge of the various plants and trees in the jungle. I chewed the stems of a wild begonia for the first time, and never would I imagine it would be so refreshing. I also learned people eat termites as a source of protein (the tour guide ate some straight off the tree!) and that Milky Way trees can be used as a substitute for glue.

The adventure ended with a 45-minute float through Darknight Cave, and it was unexpectedly serene. As bizarre as it may sound, there was something calming about floating in a pitch black cave filled with fruit bats, hearing the tour guide tell the story of the Maya underworld, and then drifting into a state of meditation and gratitude.

Another nature adventure I engaged in was traveling to Caye Caulker, a small limestone coral island off the coast of Belize. I stayed at Weezies Oceanfront Hotel & Garden Cottages, a property located on Caye Caulker, and a stone's throw away from Mexico City. We had to take a small plane from Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport, but it was only about a 10-minute flight.

While at Caye Caulker, I snorkelled at Mexico Rocks with Anda De Watas Tours, giving me a chance to explore the wet side of Belize. It was my second and favorite time snorkeling, not only because I didn't puke this time, but also because I saw colorful coral, bright fish, and nurse sharks for the first time. Belize is known for its extreme biodiversity and distinctive ecosystems, making it a highly sought-after destination for snorkeling.

Everything about Belize gently reminded me that I'm a living being and deserve to experience all of the wonder life has to offer. I came home rejuvenated, more deeply connected with myself, and with a deep understanding that all things are working together for my good. (Essence.com)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Trial Farm, Orange Walk District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Development Finance Corporation, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. **Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this property is sold.**

1. Parcel No. 1013 Pucte Villas, Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	1013
The freehold property of Ms. Nellie Felipa Briceno & Jairo Zadir Campos (Jointly) surety for Jairo Zadir Campos.		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLYCASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO

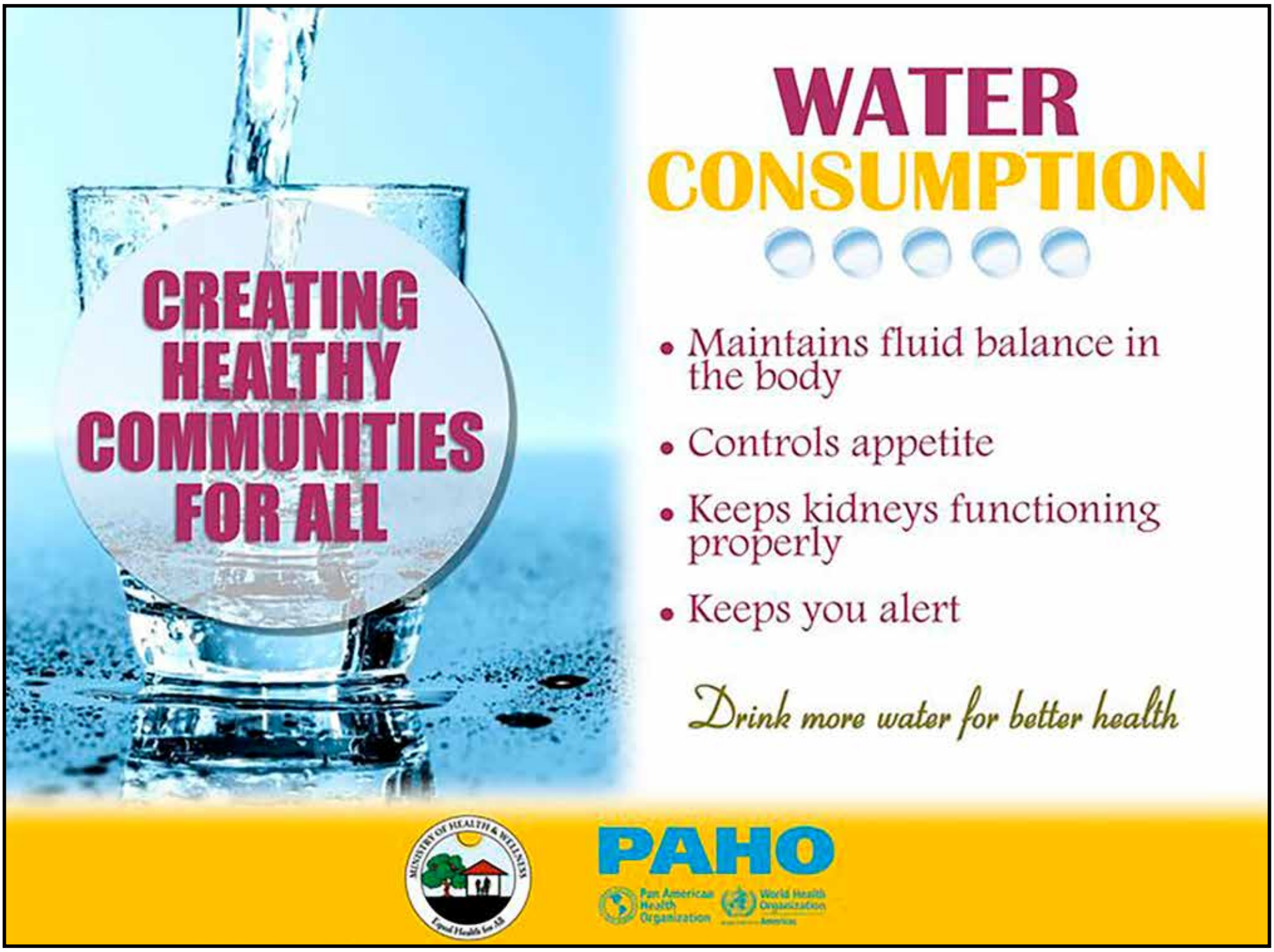
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

DFC FINANCING AVAILABLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS


CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOR ALL
WATER CONSUMPTION
• Maintains fluid balance in the body
• Controls appetite
• Keeps kidneys functioning properly
• Keeps you alert
Drink more water for better health
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
PAHO
Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization

GOOD TO GO

Belize: One of Wanderlist's 26 Top 2026 Destinations

Top tip: New flights from the UK via Montréal now enable Brits to reach Belize within a day, bringing its Maya ruins, Garifuna culture and barrier reef even closer.

The 2026 Good to Go List represents the most exciting and meaningful moments that travel can offer the curious and responsible Wanderlust traveller this year. Each destination was chosen by the Wanderlust editors not only for its incredible experiences but for the unique stories unfolding there in 2026.

From milestone anniversaries to groundbreaking cultural events, this list reminds us that travel keeps us connected to the world and to each other. It's about engaging with places in a way that celebrates their heritage, supports their communities and brings their stories to life. (wanderlustmagazine.com)

BELIZE

One of the world's great conservation success stories of the past few decades has been the recovery of the Belize Barrier Reef, described by Charles Darwin as "the most remarkable reef in the West Indies". This year marks the 30th anniversary of its inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage list, yet its future looked irreversibly bleak not that long ago.

Back in 2001, when Hurricane Iris devastated the region, Belize's reef was left all but dead. Five years later, the mass replanting of corals began in Laughing Caye National Park; today, more than 92,000 coral fragments have been seeded through the community-driven Fragments of Hope project. Though recent bleaching events have taken a toll, this remains one of the world's healthiest barrier reef systems.

Its revival has been a boon for travellers, too. Whether bobbing among nurse sharks and stingrays in Hol Chan Marine Reserve's Shark Ray Alley, snorkelling at the atolls of Lighthouse or Glover's Reef, or plunging into the Great Blue Hole – a vast marine cenote (sinkhole) – you can enjoy phenomenal underwater experiences. Belize also celebrates 45 years of independence on 21 September, offering yet another reason why now's the time to explore a natural wonder beating the odds thanks to community efforts.

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

MINISTRY OF CONSTITUTION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORTATION

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

CONCRETING OF BELMOPAN BUS TERMINAL PARKING LOT

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs and Transportation, intends to pave the Belmopan Bus Terminal Parking Lot using Rigid Pavement (Reinforced Concrete).

Provided there are no delays, construction is expected to start within a month. The Ministry hereby invites interested contractors in the civil works to be part of this bidding process.

The Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs and Transportation. The Ministry will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

The scope of works will include but not be limited to:
- Construction, installation and paving of reinforced concrete slab for bus parking area
- Construction of Drains & Bus Bays
- Repair & Erection of Perimeter Fence
- Line Marking of Bus Bays & Parking area
- Construction of Bus terminal access road

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in Rigid Pavement (Reinforced Concrete) of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:
- General Construction Experience: 10 Years
- Specific Construction Experience in application of Rigid Pavement
- Contract Management Experience: 5 Years
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (one)
- Access to Line of Credit: $200,000.00
- Average annual turnover of minimum: Bz$300,000.00
- Qualified registered Engineer: 5 years' experience

Effective **Monday 19 January 2026**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz$500.00** from the address below.

Bidders shall submit proposals (one original and one hard copy) in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant.

A Site Visit will be conducted on **Thursday 22 January 2026 at 10:00am**. Bidders shall congregate at the Belmopan Bus Terminal.

All Bidding Documents properly completed should reach the office of the Chief Executive Officer at the address below no later than **Friday 30 January 2026** at **10:00 am.** The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: **Mr. Chester Williams**
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs and Transportation
Abadi Building
Constitution Drive
Belmopan
Cayo District
BELIZE C.A.

Tel: 828-5002 or 828-5012
Email: ceo.secretary@mcrit.gov.bz

Advancing Belize's Digital Future through Responsible AI

Early December - The Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of E-Governance participated in a high-level policy discussion on Artificial Intelligence, focused on shaping practical, ethical, and people-centered AI frameworks for the region.

For Belize, the conversation on Augmented AI is especially important. Rather than replacing human decision-making, augmented AI strengthens public officers' capabilities—supporting smarter policy design, improving service delivery, enhancing data-driven governance, and increasing efficiency across key sectors such as health, education, public administration, and national security. In a small developing state, this approach ensures technology works with our people, preserves accountability, and aligns with our national development priorities.

These regional engagements are critical as Belize continues to build interoperable digital systems, strengthen institutional capacity, and adopt AI responsibly within government operations.

We extend sincere appreciation to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Costa Rica for convening this important dialogue and for their continued leadership and partnership in advancing digital transformation and AI readiness across the region.

La Inteligencia Artificial (IA) ya está transformando la vida de millones de personas en todo el mundo. Estudios recientes estiman que podría impulsar aumentos de productividad de hasta 1,5 % anual durante la próxima década, y que el mercado global de IA alcanzará los US$ 43.000 millones a finales de 2025. En América Latina y el Caribe (ALC), más del 50 % de las grandes empresas ya integran soluciones de IA en sus operaciones, mientras que el sector público comienza a implementarlas para optimizar servicios esenciales.

Este avance abre una oportunidad sin precedentes, pero también plantea un desafío clave: ¿cómo equilibrar la innovación y el crecimiento económico con la protección de derechos y principios éticos? Como tecnología de propósito general, la IA está llamada a transformar profundamente la sociedad. Los países de la región buscan aprovechar su potencial para impulsar el desarrollo, aumentar la competitividad y mejorar el bienestar de sus ciudadanos. (IDB)

Belize is making great strides in advancing governance to state-of-the-art. If it will decrease he cost of services with a higher quality then it is the way to go.

Hon. Usher Says Thanks
FOR SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS PARTY IN PORT

The annual Christmas Party of Hon. Gilroy Usher in the Port Loyola on Sunday Dec. 21st was a tremendous success.

Sincere thanks to the hundreds of persons from across the division who attended the event, the PUP Port Loyola Committee which organized the activity under the leadership of its Chairman Norman Usher, and all the sponsors including Councilor Dorian Usher, Bowen & Bowen, the Belize City Council, and BTL.

Congratulations to the winners of the various prizes including Mr. Rushford Phillips winner of the washing machine. Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year 2026 to everyone.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Companies listed below have been dissolved and duly struck off the IBC Register as follows:

NAME OF COMPANY	Date of Dissolution
QUARLES BUSINESS CORP.	3rd November, 2025
NORTH FACE AGENCY LTD.	3rd November, 2025
ELVER COMPANY LIMITED	10th November, 2025
ENRICO PAGANI CHARITY LTD.	10th November, 2025

Morgan & Morgan Trust Corporation Belize Ltd.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Companies listed below have been dissolved and duly struck off the IBC Register as follows:

NAME OF COMPANY	Date of Dissolution
STAR FINANCIAL CORPORATION	4TH December, 2025
SOMA FINANCE LTD.	9th December, 2025
BRAXA CONSULTING INC.	10th December, 2025
TASOMA INC.	11th December, 2025
DUNRITE TRADE LTD.	16th December, 2025
SPL PRINCESS ANASTASIA LIMITED	18th December, 2025
PRINCESS MARIA LTD.	18th December, 2025
TOPIUS PORTFOLIO INC.	29th December, 2025
DECOPLAZA NO. 6, S.A.	29th December, 2025
KLH TRADING Ltd.	29th December, 2025
5 PARTNERS INVESTMENT CORP.	29th December, 2025
CONOVER TRADING LTD.	30th December, 2025
GNI GLOBAL NEWS INC.	30th December, 2025
PEDREGAL SERVICES LTD.	30th December, 2025

Morgan & Morgan Trust Corporation Belize Ltd.

BY ORDER OF CHARGEE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED a statutory body formed and registered under the Credit Union Act, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, and whose registered office is situated at No. 1 Hyde's Lane, Belize City, Belize District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as Chargee under and by virtue of a Charge registered at the Land Registry between **RAHEEM CLIFFORD NICHOLAS** of the one part and HRCU of the other part.

HRCU will at the expiration of three months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property described in the Schedule below.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 1,044.3 Square Meters being Parcel 786, Block 4 in the Carmelita Registration Section TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **RAHEEM CLIFFORD NICHOLAS**

DATED this 5th day of January 2026

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
Phone: (501) 280-5644
Fax: (501) 223-0738
E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/

LETTER TO THE Editor

Marking the Return to School After the Christmas Holidays

Dear Editor,

As the Christmas holidays ends, another important season begins—the return to school. This time of year, marks a fresh start for children, youth, and adults alike, filled with renewed energy, goals, and opportunities for growth.

For students, heading back to the classroom can bring excitement, nerves, and motivation all at once. It is a chance to reconnect with friends, build new skills, and continue the journey of learning. For young people balancing studies with new responsibilities, this return is a reminder of their resilience and determination. And for adult learners, it reflects a commitment to personal development and lifelong education, often achieved alongside work and family life.

The transition back to school is also significant for families, teachers, and school staff who work tirelessly to create safe, supportive environments where learning can thrive. Their dedication deserves recognition and gratitude as they help guide students through the months ahead.

As we mark this return, let us wish all learners success, confidence, and perseverance. May children discover joy in learning, youth find purpose in their goals, and adults feel proud of the example they set by continuing their education. The post-holiday return to school is more than a routine—it is a shared step forward into a new chapter of possibility for our entire community.

Sincerely,
M Barker

LETTER TO THE Editor

Make Budgeting the Resolution That Lasts

Dear Editor,

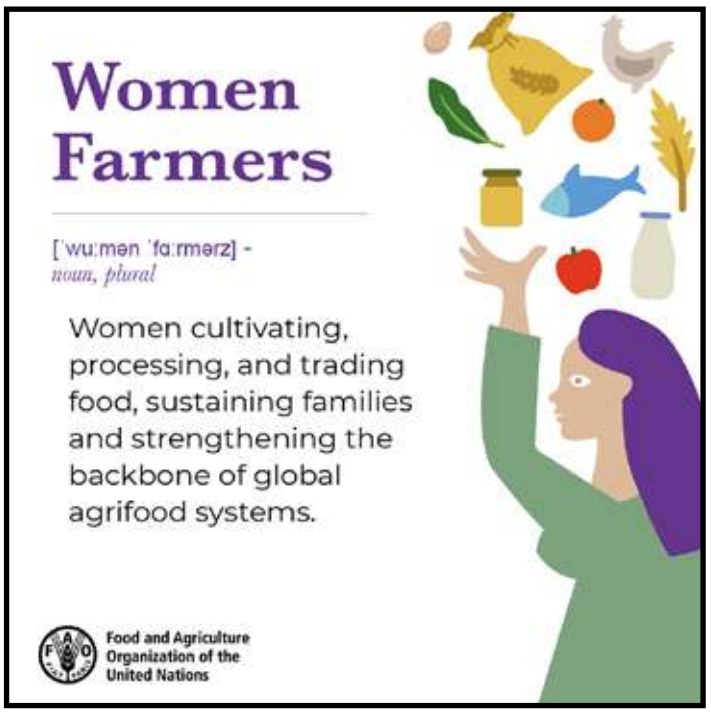
As a new year begins, many of us set resolutions with the best intentions, only to watch them fade by February. This year, I urge readers to consider a resolution that truly lasts creating a budget and committing to it.

Budgeting is not about restriction; it is about protection. In an uncertain economy, having a clear plan for your money is one of the most responsible acts you can take. It secures not only your own future, but also that of your children and loved ones who depend on you. A thoughtful budget helps prepare for emergencies, reduce debt, and build savings, offering peace of mind that no short-term resolution ever could.

Sticking to a budget also teaches discipline and foresight—values that children absorb by example. When they see adults planning ahead and living within their means, they learn that financial stability is earned through consistency, not chance.

A New Year's Resolution should improve your life long after January ends. Budgeting does exactly that. By committing to a realistic plan and reviewing it regularly, we choose responsibility over impulse and security over stress. That choice is not just smart—it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,
A James


Women Farmers
['wu:men 'fa:rmerz] -
noun, plural
Women cultivating, processing, and trading food, sustaining families and strengthening the backbone of global agrifood systems.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Corozal North, San Joaquin/ San Maximo Village, Corozal District; Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District; Caribbean Shores, Belize City, San Pedro, Belize Rural North II, Belize District; Santa Elena, Cayo District.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

1. Parcel No. 4013 Corozal North, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	1	4013
The freehold property of Mr. Leroy Westby.		

2. Parcel No. 296 San Joaquin Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Joaquin/San Maximo	1	296
The freehold property of Mr. Wilbert P. Linares		

3. Parcel No. 1447 Carmelita Village, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Carmelita	4	1447
The freehold property of Mr. Roamir Edwardo Gonzalez.		

4. Parcel No. 972 Caribbean Shores, Belize District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Caribbean Shores	16	972
The freehold property of Mr. Edmond Chee surety for The Pew Pew Store -Guns & Ammo C0. Ltd.		

5. Parcel No. 7092 Grand Belizean Estates, San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	7092
The freehold property of Mr. Edilberto Reyes Jr.		

6. Parcel No. 1173 off Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1173
The freehold property of Mr. Gianni Jerald Castillo.		

7. Parcel No. 1174 off Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1174
The freehold property of Mr. Gianni Jerald Castillo.		

8. Vehicle:

2019 4DR Great Wall Wingle

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

35TH Krem New Year's Cycling Classic 2026

The thirty fifth version of the KNY-CC race kicks off the cycling season right along with the Year 2026. The early visitors at the Corozal Free Zone were witnesses to the rollout into the caution announced highway. The race rumbled down the Philip Goldson Highway, and ended on Central American Boulevard in Belize City. Along the route and at the finish line, the race attracted numerous spectators at the tens of villages they roll through. AT 10:19 the leaders by a minute on the peloton zipped through Orange Walk Town en route to Belize City. The cycling enthusiasts cheered on the teams of cyclists as they battled fiercely for the station prizes and the KNYCC garland which is coveted more only by the Holy Saturday's national tradition.

The Belize City Council was proud to serve as a sponsor of the 35th KREM New Year's Day Cycling Classic 2026, one of Belize's most iconic sporting events. The Council was represented by Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, who participated in the presentation of trophies to the winners of this year's race, alongside Councillor Stephanne Hamilton. The BCC extends special congratulations to Councillor Kaya Cattouse, who placed second in the Women's Category, an outstanding achievement.

To the well derived champions and the fierce competition: Congratulations on making this year's race a success. To the cycling fans and all who cheered who say thanks for being a part of their New Year 2026 experience: you all keep cycling growing in Belize.

Elite Men's Champion: 1st Place: Justin Williams | 2nd Place: Jyven Gonzalez | 3rd Place: Oscar Quiroz

Women's Champion: 1st Place: Mary Joyce Monton | 2nd Place: Kaya Cattouse | 3rd Place: Kedisha Francis

Junior Male Champions: 1st Place: Keith EnWright Jr. | 2nd Place: Jashawn Aldana | 3rd Place: Devyn Major

CONGRATULATIONS! & A Happy New Year 2026

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Job Title: Program Manager
Duration: Twelve (12) months (with option to renew)
Location: Public-Private Dialogue Unit (PPD), Secretariat to the Economic Development Council (EDC) in the Office of the Prime Minister, Belmopan

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Public-Private Dialogue Unit (PPD) in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) was established in 2012 to provide technical support to the Economic Development Council (EDC) in operationalizing its mandate to: (i) Foster an improved business climate by making recommendations to the Prime Minister and relevant government ministries; (ii) Support reforms that lead to an improved business climate; (iii) Strengthen the relationship between the private and public sector through meaningful dialogue; as outlined in the Economic Development Council Act, No. 38 of 2017.

1.2 Since November 2020, the Government of Belize has reiterated a renewed focus on advancing ease of doing business reforms as outlined in #planBelize in support of robust, resilient and sustainable economic growth. The successful implementation of initiatives championed by the EDC requires efficient coordination and project management that is supported by qualified expertise. The PPD, as the Secretariat to the EDC, is staffed by technical officers and a head of department. The PPD takes on a project management approach to its work, ensuring that proper planning, risk management, stakeholder engagement and monitoring and evaluation of activities and stakeholder engagement occur in a systematic manner. The Public-Private Dialogue Unit is hereby seeking to strengthen the work of the EDC's Secretariat by obtaining the services of a Program Manager (Project Coordinator). Important programs of work to be managed are the Belize Investment and Business Climate Action Plan (BIBCAP), MSME support, EDC Strategic activities.

2. OBJECTIVE

The person filling this post will provide expertise in program management and coordination of projects including but not limited to planning, stakeholder engagement, providing policy and other technical advice, conducting risk assessment, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting on work programs, complementing the work of the Executive Director, assuring Project Office productivity, and collaboratively engaging other PPD staff.

3. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

The following is the minimum technical expertise required to conduct the assignment:

- A master degree in Project Management (*certification in project management with work experience may be considered*), Business Administration, Economics, Development Studies, Social Sciences or other field relevant to the post.
- At least three years' work experience in the private sector and 3 years of working experience in project management, administration and private sector development. Familiarity with donor-funded development projects, donor liaison, operations / administration, and related functions.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To request the Terms of Reference for this position, kindly email: admin.officer@opm.gov.bz; Telephone enquiries may be directed to Marta Hendrikx, Telephone +501-828-5262.

Applicants should send an Expression of Interest in letter format and Curriculum Vitae addressed to Ms. Carmencita Sosa, Executive Director - EDC, at executive.director@opm.gov.bz and copy to admin.officer@opm.gov.bz, with "**Public Private Dialogue Unit – Program Manager**" as the subject line of the email. Deadline for receipt of submissions: **5:00 PM on Sunday, January 11, 2026**.

BVTC Says Thanks

The Benque Viejo Town Council wishes to thank everyone who made this Christmas event possible.

Mayor Jorge Rosales thanks Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño for his generosity and love for the residents of Benque Viejo and Cayo West. We also thank Mayor Jorge Rodriguez from Melchor de Mencos for his assistance in obtaining the gifts for this event in a timely manner. We thank the Immigration Department and the Customs Department for facilitating many processes at the border. We also thank DJ Estevan for the sound system, Bismillah Store, the PUP Western Caucus, Hon. Oscar Mira, Hon. Julius Espat, Mr. Moises Cal for all his support, anonymous donors, and the Benque Viejo Councilors.

Once again, we thank everyone who assisted, and we wish you a blessed new year. (post)

MoECST Addresses Charter Expiration of American Northwest University School of Medicine

Belmopan, January 7, 2025.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) addresses public concerns regarding the closure of the American Northwest University School of Medicine following the expiration of its charter, which expired in June 2024 and was not renewed primarily because the institution did not meet the required terms and conditions for charter renewal.

MoECST is mindful of the concerns expressed by affected students, including approximately 25 Belizean students, regarding the potential disruption to their medical education.

The Ministry has begun direct engagement with these students to provide guidance and explore available options to ensure continuity of their studies with minimal academic disruption.

As part of these efforts, MoECST has initiated discussions with the University of Belize (UB), which operates a medical school, to facilitate a seamless transition for affected students who wish to continue their studies.

The Ministry assures students and their families that all reasonable efforts will be made to support continuity of education. Where necessary, the Government of Belize is prepared to consider support for certain financial obligations associated with these transition arrangements, subject to established procedures and approvals.

MoECST remains committed to transparency, adherence to regulatory processes, and the highest standards of quality and integrity in higher education. The Ministry's priority continues to be the best interests of students, ensuring access to quality medical education, and maintaining the credibility of Belize's higher education system.

Ends

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

IDB Inter-American Development Bank

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

RE-PUBLICATION OF NOTICE- DEADLINE EXTENSION

Country: *Belize*
Project: *Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas Loan/Credit/Grant No.: BL-L1045 (5753/OC-BL) Institution: Belize Social Investment Fund*
Abstract: *National consultancy to conduct the supervision of rehabilitation works at the village level*
Contract/Bid No.: *BL-L1045-P00006*
Deadline: *January 22, 2026*

The *Government of Belize (GOBZ)* has received financing from the *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*, towards the cost of the *Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas and* intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") for *National consultancy to conduct the supervision of rehabilitation works at the village level* is to supervise the rehabilitation works under the Water and Sanitation Program. The firm will ensure that all activities are carried out in compliance with the approved designs, technical specifications, and standards, while maintaining quality, safety, and adherence to timelines. These works include compound rehabilitation, upgrade of water system equipment, refurbishment of storage reservoirs, and upgrades to pump houses and electrical systems to ensure compliance with current standards.

Scope of Services

1. Technical Inspection of Construction Works Services;
2. Undertake monitoring based on the project's ESMP with guidan from the Social and Environmental Management Officer;
3. Consult and advise the BSIF during the construction Works/ Goods delivery period(s);
4. Submit one (1) electronic copy in Microsoft Word format and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format of **monthly** progress reports.
5. Review and approve all shop and working drawings prepared by the Works Contractor and suppliers to ensure full compliance of such drawings with the requirements of the Consultant's designs, plans, and specifications;
6. Advise on the suitability of Sub-contractors;
7. Review and approve invoices submitted by the Works Contractor for payment of Works completed, and prepare payment certificates, and ensure that advanced payments issued to the Contractor are utilized for the intended purpose;
8. Hold monthly progress meetings with BSIF staff, Works Contractor, and beneficiaries so as to discuss and address matters pertaining to each sub-project's Works progress;
9. Liaise with the BSIF and relevant authorities, and offer assistance so as to expedite the acceptance and takeover of the Works;
10. Make a final inspection of the completed construction Works; recommend the issuing or non- issuing of the Completion Certificate within 14 days of the Works Contractor's request for issuance; and prepare a Completion Report to the BSIF within 30 days of the end of the Works by the Works Contractor;

The *BSIF* now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

From the *expressions of interest received, the Executing Agency will prepare a short list comprising* not fewer than five (5) and not more than eight (8) eligible firms.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 section 3.8 – Selection based on the Consultants' Qualification and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the IDB policies.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture to enhance their qualifications. For the purpose of establishing the short list, the nationality of a firm is that of the country in which it is legally incorporated or constituted and in the case of Joint Venture, the nationality of the firm appointed to represent it.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to consulting firms' technical competence, qualifications and experience in relation to providing detailed supervision services on rehabilitation projects, as well as local and regional experience, financial capability (liquidity ratio) and existing commitments. Technical competence of Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the ***QCBS method*** set out in the Consultant Policies. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours of ***8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (Local Belize Time), except on Public Holidays.***

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by ***January 22, 2026*** at ***2:00 p.m.*** *The submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked* ***"Expression of Interest – Consultancy to conduct the supervision of rehabilitation works at the village level."***

Attention:
Procurement Officer
Belize Social Investment Fund
Building C, 4253 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan, Belize
Telephone: 822-0239 or 822-0508/9
E-mail: kyla.cho@sifbelize.org
C: carlos.tun@sifbelize.org

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Jason Cain** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Club Bizzo"** located at # 43 Queen Charlotte St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Timoty Elejio** is applying for a **Membership Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"Loyal Endeavor Lodge # 5"** located at # 48 Regent Street West, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Judith Quiros** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"3 J's Restaurant & Bar"** located in Crooked Tree Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Vilduca International Ltd.** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Dibary Restaurant"** located at # 29 Albert St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Tanya M. Hernandez** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Deana's Food Stop"** located at # 41 New Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jose Marin/Martha Montero/Carlo Marin** are applying for a **Publican General Liquor License** to be operated at **"Lealtad Loyalty Belize"** located at # 1297 Marbee Cone Avenue, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jaheem R. Velasquez** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Bredda O Pizza (Home of the Heavenly Crust"** located at # 102 Woodpecker Ave., Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Florita Gidwani** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Andee's"** located at # 57 Regent St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Merary Acosta/Ernesto Acosta** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Acosta's Shop"** located at # 26 Contribo St., Lord's Bank Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Albert H. Requena** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Chilly's Chillspot"** located at # 17 Farmers Market, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yuma's River Front Lodge Ltd.** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Yuma's River Front Lodge Ltd."** located on Trapiche Rd., Santa Eleana Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Miao Qi Tan** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"1901 Supermarket"** located at # 1901 Constitution Drive, Belmopan City, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yorleny Del Rosario Melendez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Yor's Backyard & Grill"** located at # 24 Riverside St., Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Meiyin Chen Liu** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sheng He Shop"** located at # 5558 Baymen Ave., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Christine Lamb Ford** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Ford's Kriol Kitchen"** located at # 9020 Mahogany St. Ext., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Geetha S. Sedhu** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Velavan Indian Fast Food"** located at # 3A Queen Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Mystique Lounge & Beach Club Limited** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Mystique Lounge & Beach Club Limited"** located at # 7753 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rixis S. Mejia** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"Long Island Bar & Lounge"** located at # 1223 Blue Marlin Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **BMU Company Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"BMU Company Limited"** located at # 72A P.G. Hwy., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located at # 13 Seashore Dr., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Celebrity Restaurant & Bar Ltd.** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Celebrity Restaurant & Bar Ltd."** located on Plot A Goal Lane, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located at # 6752 Sister Therese Spark St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Vanessa Nunez** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Gallery Café Ltd."** located at # 91 Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lili Ramos** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Lili Shop"** located in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Andri Marin/ Rene Cacul** are applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Ocean Prime Seafood & Pub"** located in San Roman Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Juan Gongora** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"D' Flag Store"** located on Belize Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jelen E. Trejo** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"Midnight's Lounge"** located at # 43 San Francisco Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Neelam Issrani** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sony Store"** located at # 44 San Antonio Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Luisa Ramirez** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Pita's Mini Grocery"** located in Guinnea Grass Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Mauricio Jones** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Cevi Chill"** located on Black Water St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Elizabeth Trujillo** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"3 C Cool Spot"** located at # 8 Mopan Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Maritza Briceno** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"7 Notes Wine & Spirits"** located at # 5 Dunn Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Armenia Duran** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"D Store"** located at # 53 Stadium St. Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Cristina Rajo** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"C & N"** located at # 8 Stadium St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Joe Shawn Pate/Samuel Flores** are applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Francis Fast Food"** located on Bze Czl Rd., Orange Wallk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Fabian Chi** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Things & More"** located at # 3 Tate Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Tenisha Tucker** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Las Nubes Grocery Shop"** located at # 62 Louisiana Area, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Debora Martinez** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Omar Grocery Shop"** located in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Roxana de Jesus Nugent** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Roxy's Restaurant & Lounge"** located on Tilapa St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **David A. Camara** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Office Pub & Sport Bar"** located at # 42 Otro Benque Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Huiji Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Do Re Mi Store"** located on Cinderella Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhen Sheng Huang** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Aaron Store"** located on Bze/Czl Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wei Jin Luo** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sunday Fast Food"** located on Liberty Avenue, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Guoli Chen** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"White House Restaurant"** located on Fonseca St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zi Long Li** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Dickerson Family Mart"** located at # 132 Bze/Czl. Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

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